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SUBJECT: GEN DAYTON MEETS WITH JORDANIAN INTELLIGENCE CHIEF

Classified By: Ambassador David Hale, for reasons 1.4 b and d

1. (C) Summary: Dayton and Dhahabi discussed the Palestinian situation, Iran's role in it, a proposal to train Abu Mazen loyalists in Jordan, and the pro-Hamas lobbying of several Amman personalities, including the Russian Ambassador. End summary.

2. (C) USSC Lieutenant General Keith Dayton met June 4 with Jordanian General Intelligence Directorate (GID) chief General Muhammad Dhahabi in Amman. Dayton and Dhahabi exchanged assessments of the current situation in the Palestinian territories, with Dhahabi declaring himself optimistic that Abu Mazen's referendum initiative, if handled properly, could successfully undermine Hamas. Hamas was becoming more divided, Dhahabi asserted. The outside organization under Khalid Mishal in Damascus was in the Iranians' pocket; there were two West Bank factions beginning to vie with each other, as well as a Gaza faction. Dhahabi said he would be going to Israel in the coming week to meet with his GOI counterparts, and would try to impress on them the danger posed by Tehran influence among Palestinians, and to convince them that strengthening Abu Mazen now was the only way to avoid ceding the Palestinian field to Iran.

JIPTC

3. (C) Dayton told Dhahabi that the Jordan International Police Training Center (JIPTC) might prove an ideal venue) both operationally and politically) for the training of Palestinian border police under Abu Mazen's authority. Dayton had in mind training sufficient numbers to control the Rafah and Karni crossings; this would relieve the Presidential Guards who currently staff the Rafah crossings, enabling them to return to the task of protecting Abu Mazen. Dhahabi quickly responded I, m on, 8 signaling his support for the training proposal if it is decided to move ahead with it.

Jordan's Posture Toward Hamas) Russians in Odd Company

4. (C) Dhahabi said Jordan would continue to insist that Hamas convincingly explain what happened to the weapons that had been cached in Jordan before there would be any consideration of political-level meetings. Dhahabi had recently been visited separately by Russian Ambassador to Jordan Alexander Kalugin, the local Iranian intelligence chief, the Qatari Ambassador, and Jordanian Muslim Brothers, all urging him to soften his stand and receive a PA/Hamas political delegation. Dhahabi said he told them all he had no interest in compromising with Hamas, an organization that

had been plotting to kill his officers and that was already on its way to becoming toast politically.

15. (U) USSC Lt Gen Dayton cleared this message.

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